



Climate Smart Kingston Commission
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 481-7339

Minutes to the Climate Smart Kingston Commission June 22, 2016
Kingston City Hall, Council Chambers 4:30-6:00 PM

Commission Members (Voting): Azriel Alleyne, Elizabeth Broad, Pat Courtney Strong, Michael D'Arcy, Emilie Hauser, Nick Hvozda, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Sarina Pepper, Karen Sullivan, John Wackman

Commission Members (Non-Voting):

Nolan Bastianelli (excused), Casey Schwarz, Amanda LaValle (Ulster County Dept of the Environment) represented by Alanna Henneberry

Ex-Officio Members: Suzanne Cahill (Kingston Planning Dept. excused), Brenna Robinson (Kingston Community & Economic Development-excused), Julie Noble (Kingston Parks & Recreation, Commission Chairperson), NYS Assembly Member Kevin Cahill represented by Jillian Nodiak, Kingston Common Council (not present), Kingston City Engineer (not present), Kingston Dept of Public Works (not present)

Guests: Jess Mullen (Town and Village of New Paltz Climate Action Coalition), Gary Pennock, Jim Mays (Town of Olive)

- I. **Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 4:37PM. The guests were welcomed. There was no public comment at this time.
- II. **Review and Approval May 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Wackman and seconded by Commissioner Courtney Strong, the minutes to the May meeting as amended were unanimously approved the commissioners in attendance.
- III. **Old Business**
 1. **Climate Action Plan (CAP) Recommendations:** The matrix for the CAP recommendations was reviewed with no motions made and no resolutions presented.
 2. **Energy and Renewables**
 - i. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory/Energy Tracking:** Commissioner Hvozda, met with Commissioner Schwarz, Commissioner Pepper and the Chairperson Julie Noble to review 2015 data for energy & water usage but still need to review the 2015 data set against the 2010 data. Two data sets are to be tracked, city owned properties and private properties both 2015 against 2010. Private properties will be reviewed for 2015 in the same manner as 2010 utility energy registry available through NYSERDA. Tracking software possibilities for Greenhouse Gas Emissions was discussed including software Facility Dude from Dude Solutions, Portfolio Manager from EPA and Energy Manager from Central Hudson.
 - ii. **Wendell Flex Tech Study Review:** Commissioner Alleyne provided an update on the Wendell Flex Tech review with no motions made and no resolutions presented.
 - iii. **Clean Energy Communities:** The Clean Energy Communities Program serve as the primary entry for local governments into the State's clean energy programs and complements the State's existing, and more comprehensive, Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification Program. A Clean Energy Communities program certification grant was mentioned as possibility to provide support to communities that can demonstrate leadership high impact clean energy actions. The stipulation for this grant is completion of four criteria including one new criterion out of ten clean energy high impact criteria. The 10 criteria are: 1. Benchmarking, 2. Clean Energy Upgrades,

3. LED Street Lights, 4. Clean Fleets, 5. Solarize, 6. Unified Solar Permit, 7. Energy Code Enforcement Training, 8. Climate Smart Communities Certification, 9. Community Choice Aggregation, 10. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Financing Link to the program follows: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Files/About/Clean-Energy-Fund/CEF-Communities-Chapter.pdf>

- iv. **Solar Permitting:** Commissioner McEvoy discussed how the standard form of streamlined permit recommended by NYSERDA differs from the Kingston draft permit document with respect to properties subject to historic preservation architectural review and will forward further information to interested commissioners as an action item. Commissioners Courtney Strong and Wackman are reviewing additional issues regarding streamlined permitting as an action item. No motions were made and no resolutions presented at this time. The link to the permit form discussed by Commissioner McEvoy is at the NYSERDA website: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Files/About/Statewide-Initiatives/CGC-Plans/Guidance/NYS-unified-solar-permit.pdf>
- v. **Solarize Campaign:** Commissioner Wackman presented a NYSERDA NY-Sun Solarize certificate to the commission and discussed that the next Solarize phase will be in southern Ulster County concentrating on Ellenville. Community shared solar is expected to be a focus shortly.
- vi. **LED Streetlight Consortium:** Commissioner Courtney Strong discussed the Mid-Hudson Street Light Consortium LED municipal street lighting initiative which aims to assist with creating a more affordable pathway to LED street light conversion including that in the City of Kingston. Attendees at a recent meeting included Commissioner Courtney Strong, the City Corporation Counsel, Central Hudson representatives and a lighting contractor. An ARC GIS map with audit data of streetlights is expected to follow later.
- vii. **Grid Alternatives:** Commissioner D'Arcy reported that Neighbor Works America, the City of Kingston & Grid Alternatives, are involved with the first solar installation in their collaborative effort on July 8th at 34 Fairview Avenue, Kingston. There will be homeowner workshop sessions July 12 & 14 at Kingston Library. Commissioner D'Arcy explained the program and that there are expected to be a total of ten installations. Grid Alternatives Tri-State leads teams of volunteers and job trainees to install solar electric systems for low-income families in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, providing families with needed savings. Grid Alternatives link: <http://www.gridalternatives.org/new-york-tri-state>
RUPCO link for the solar program: <http://www.saveenergyhudsonvalley.org/low-income-solar/>
- viii. **10% Challenge:** The update this month concerned LED light bulb installations. No motions were made and no resolutions presented.
- ix. **National Drive Electric Week:** Commissioner Broad reported on a meeting with Commissioner Alleyne and Commissioner D'Arcy held to organize the National Drive Electric Week event in September. Auction items and Sponsorships were discussed with the County Courthouse or County bldg parking lots considered as possible venues subject to any required approvals. It is anticipated that electric vehicles would be on display with dealers in attendance to facilitate the flow of information and test-drives as well as renewable energy exhibitors and music and activities for children. Sustainable Saturday Block Party was considered as a possible name for the event. The weekend of September 17 is being considered for the event. As an action item Commissioner Broad agreed to chair the event in Kingston with assistance from Commissioners Pepper, D'Arcy and Alleyne as well as Jess Mullen. Commissioner Broad further brought a website showing electric vehicle charging stations to the commission's attention: <http://www.plugshare.com/>

1. Land Use and Transportation

- i. **Zoning Code Recommendations:** The Chairperson mentioned zoning research done by Commissioner Pepper with respect to the Climate Action Plan and the matrix for the CAP recommendations. Commissioner McEvoy reported that Jennifer Schwartz Berky attended the last zoning last meeting principally to review urban agriculture with the zoning consultants and City Planner.
- ii. **Sustainable Resource Management:** The Uptown Parking Lot drawings drafted by Barton & Loguidice were reviewed with comment to be submitted from the commission that electric vehicle charging stations should be included in the project as an action item.
- iii. **Coordination with Common Council:** Commissioner D'Arcy will report on the 10% Challenge to a Common Council committee to be determined shortly.
- iv. **CSK Facebook:** As an action item, Commissioners Pepper and D'Arcy agreed to be administrators with Commissioners Broad and Wackman to be added with alternate administrators.

III. New Business

- a. **CFA Grants- Available resources:** The chairperson reported on various grants being considered for the NYS Consolidated Funding Applications due July 29.
- b. **Announcements/Communications/Events :**
 - i. **CAD Studio:** Chairperson Julie Noble together with Commissioners Hauser and McEvoy will attend a meeting on Monday with Libby Zemaitis (DEC) and Josh Cerra (Cornell) to discuss possible locations and themes for Kingston's first Climate-Adaptive Design (CAD) studio this fall. The Climate-Adaptive Design (CAD) studio is a research effort in partnership with Cornell Landscape Architecture, Cornell Water Resources Institute and the NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program.
 - ii. **Indian Point Film:** On Sunday June 26, there will be a special showing of Ivy Meeropol's award-winning documentary, Indian Point to help raise funds for the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater that still needs work to be fully restored.

- V. **Adjournment:** Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Courtney Strong and seconded by Commissioner D'Arcy, the voting commissioners present unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:02PM.

- VI. **Next Meeting:** Wed July 27, 4:30-6:00pm, Kingston City Hall

NOTE THAT ALL WEBSITE LINKS ARE FOR GENERAL REFERENCE AND THAT THE CSK MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING SAME.

Vision: The City of Kingston will be a 'Model City' of energy, environmental and economic sustainability by 2020 within city government operations and throughout the community.